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Clemson University
Recreation Short Course

Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area Plan

FOSSIL RIDGE
RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

Sandy Thompson

Taylor River and Cebolla Ranger Districts
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests
Gunnison, Colorado

This paper was prepared to meet the requirements of the Clemson University Recreation Short Course offered in September, 1995

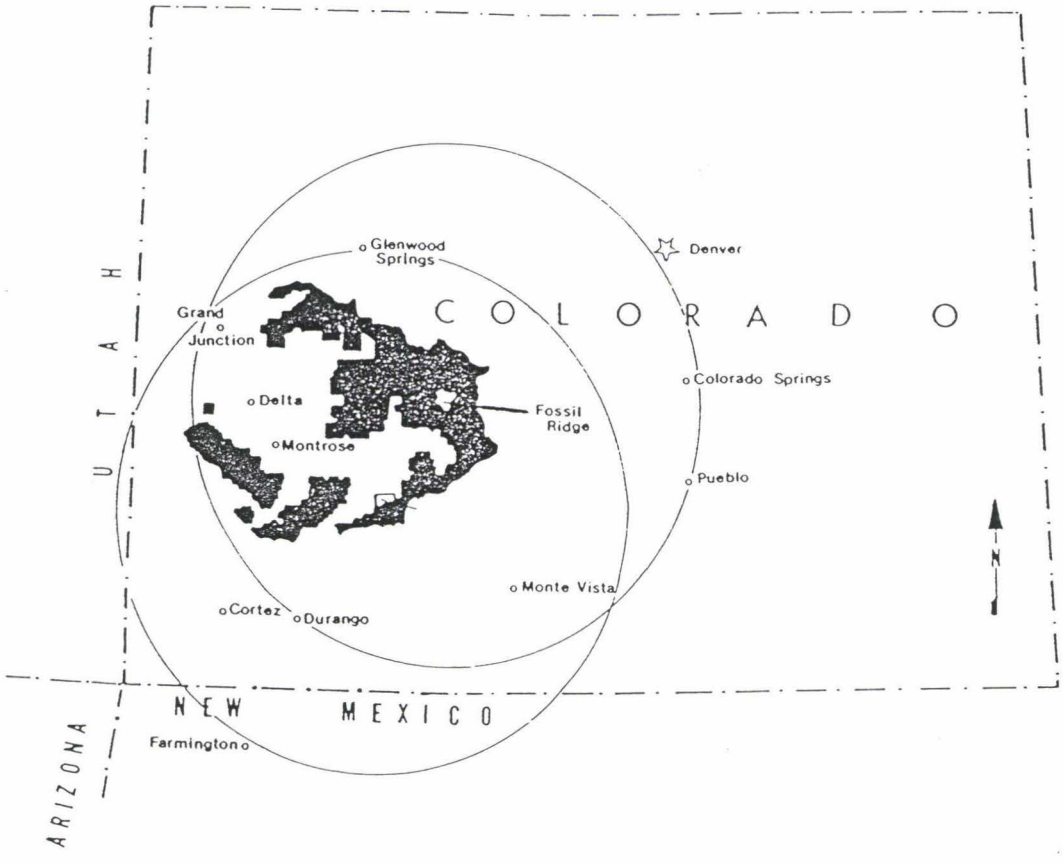
Table of Contents

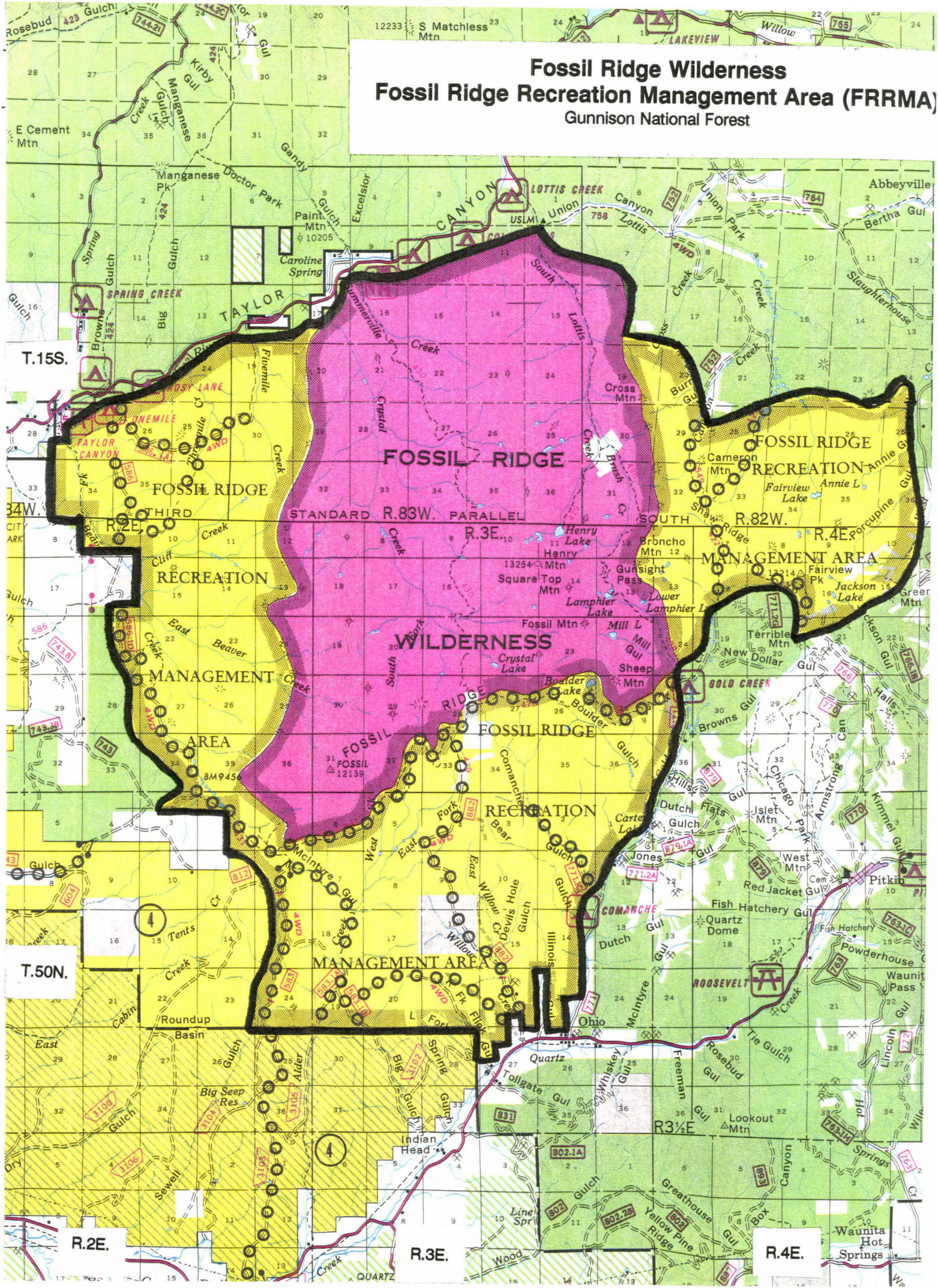
Title	Page
Vicinity Map	2
Fossil Ridge Wilderness and FRRMA Map	3
I. Background	4
II. Location	6
III. Purpose of the FRRMA Plan	6
IV. Defining Congressional Intent	6
A. Grazing	6
B. Lands and Minerals	6
C. Timber Harvesting	7
D. Campgrounds and Trails	8
E. Other Resources	8
V. Travel Management	8
VI. Public Scoping	18
VII. Other Recreation Resources	19
A. Special Recreation Events	19
B. Outfitter and Guide	19
C. Trail and Road Maintenance	19
VIII. Future Needs	20
A. Travel Management Signing	20
B. Map for Public Use	20
C. Forest Order	20
D. Forest Land and Resource Management Plan	21
Exhibits	
A. Fossil Ridge Compromise Letter	22
B. Travel Management Map	24
C. Information Hand-Out with Map	25
D. Proposed Forest Order	26
E. Glossary	28

Vicinity Map

Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area

Gunnison County, Colorado
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests




Fossil Ridge Wilderness
Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (FRRMA)
Gunnison National Forest
FOSSIL RIDGE WILDERNESS
FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
COMANCHE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
T.15S.
T.50N.
R.2E.
R.3E.
R3½E
R.4E.
STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
R.83W.
R.82W.
Fossil Mtn 13139
Square Top Mtn 13254
Cross Mtn
Cameron Mtn
Broncho Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Paint Mtn 10205
Manganese Pk
E Cement Mtn
S Matchless Mtn 12233
Abbeyville
Pitkin
Ohio
Roundup Basin
Indian Head
Waunita Hot Springs
Quartz Dome
Lookout Mtn
Islet Mtn
West Mtn
Terrible Mtn
Fairview Pk
Gunsight Pass
Lower Lamphier L
Mill L
Crystal Lake
Henry Lake
Lamphier Lake
Fairview Lake
Annie L
Jackson Lake
Boulder Lake
Carter Lake
Henry Mtn
Caroline Spring
Big Seep Res
Line Spr
Spring Creek
Taylor Canyon
Lottis Creek Canyon
Union Park
Doctor Park
Gandy
Excelsior
Manganese Gulch
Kirby Gulch
Fivemile Creek
Crystal Creek
Brush Creek
Cliff Creek
East Beaver Creek
South Fork Crystal Creek
Boulder Gulch
Comanche Gulch
Devils Hole
Willow Creek
Tents Creek
Cabin Creek
Roundup Basin
Big Gulch
Alder Gulch
Sewell Gulch
Tollgate Gulch
Whiskey Gulch
Freeman Gulch
Rosebud Gulch
Tie Gulch
Lincoln Gulch
Powderhouse Gulch
Waunita Pass
Greathouse Gulch
Yellow Pine Ridge
Box Canyon
Hot Springs Creek
Quartz Creek
Wood Creek
Illinois Gulch
Dutch Flats Gulch
Chicago Park
Armstrong
Kimmel Gulch
Halls Gulch
Browns Gulch
Mill Gulch
Sheep Gulch
New Dollar Gulch
Red Jacket Gulch
Fish Hatchery Gulch
Jones Gulch
Bertha Gulch
Slaughterhouse Creek
Porcupine Gulch
Shaw Ridge
Burn Gulch
Rosebud
Gulch
Willow
Lakeview
Roosevelt
Comanche
Gold Creek
Pitkin
Fish Hatchery
Powderhouse
Waunita Pass
Hot Springs
Lottis Creek
Union Canyon
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Gulch
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Lakeview
Roosevelt
Comanche
Gold Creek
Pitkin
Fish Hatchery
Powderhouse
Waunita Pass
Hot Springs

FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. BACKGROUND

In 1993, Congress included within the Colorado Wilderness Act 33,060 acres of Fossil Ridge in the Wilderness Preservation System, and another 43,900 as a Recreation Management Area. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

In 1980, 13 years prior to this designation, Congress declared Fossil Ridge as a 47,400 acre Wilderness Study Area (WSA). The Fossil Ridge WSA was addressed within the Amended Forest Land and Management Plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests and recommended as not suitable to be included in the Wilderness Preservation System.

In 1982, the Friends of Fossil Ridge group formed to gain citizen support to include the Fossil Ridge WSA within the National Wilderness Preservation System. This group and other forest users were also concerned that the Forest Service was allowing motorized use on trails within the WSA.

In 1991, a compromise committee was formed to address travel management within the WSA. The group consisted of ranchers, outfitter and guides, motorcycle users, four-wheel drive users, and the Gunnison County administrator. They helped the Forest Service to identify alternatives for travel management within the WSA. Through the environmental analysis process travel management was addressed. In 1992, The Forest Supervisor signed a Forest Order implementing this decision within the WSA..

In April 1991, the compromise committee sent a letter entitled "Fossil Ridge Compromise" to their respective Congressmen and Senators. In summary, this compromise requested that certain lands in Fossil Ridge be designated as wilderness, while certain lands be designated as a National Conservation Area (NCA). This NCA would be managed similar to wilderness, but would allow motorized travel on designated routes. This letter is included in this plan as Attachment A.

In August 1993 the Fossil Ridge Wilderness and Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (FRRMA) was designated by Congress. The portion of the Colorado Wilderness Act that pertains to the FRRMA as follows:

The Colorado Wilderness Act, August 23, 1993
Relating to Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area

The act states:

(a) ESTABLISHMENT -- (1) In order to conserve, protect, and enhance the scenic, wildlife, recreational, and other natural resource values of the Fossil Ridge area, there is hereby established the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation management area").

(2) The recreation management area shall consist of certain lands in the Gunnison National Forest, Colorado, which comprise approximately 43,900 acres, as generally depicted as "Area A" on a map entitled "Fossil Ridge Wilderness Proposal" dated January, 1993.

(b) ADMINISTRATION -- The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the recreation management area in accordance with this section and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System.

(c) WITHDRAWAL -- Subject to valid existing rights, all lands within the recreation management area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, including all amendments thereto.

(d) TIMBER HARVESTING -- No timber harvesting shall be allowed within the recreation management area except to the extent that would be permitted in wilderness under section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act for necessary control of fire, insects, and diseases, and for public safety.

(e) LIVESTOCK GRAZING -- The designation of the recreation management area shall not be construed to prohibit, or change the administration of, the grazing of livestock within the recreation management area.

(f) DEVELOPMENT -- No developed campgrounds shall be constructed within the recreation management area. After the date of enactment of this Act, no new roads or trails may be constructed within the recreation management area.

(g) OFF ROAD RECREATION -- Motorized travel shall be permitted within the recreation management area only on those established trails and routes existing as of July 1, 1991, on which such travel was permitted as of such date, except that other trails and routes may be used where necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency. No later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify such routes and trails and shall prepare and make available to the public a map showing such routes and trails. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the Secretary from closing any trail or route from use for purposes of resource protection or public safety.

II. LOCATION

The Fossil Ridge Wilderness Area and the FRRMA are located in Gunnison County, Colorado, about 8 air miles northeast of Gunnison and 125 air miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. It is roughly located between Taylor Canyon and Union Park on the north and east, and Quartz Creek on the south.

The Fossil Ridge Wilderness area, by an Act of Congress, is comprised of 33,060 acres. The FRRMA totals 43,900 acres. These lands are located on the Gunnison National Forest within the Taylor River and Cebolla Ranger Districts.

III. PURPOSE OF THE FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA PLAN

The purpose of this plan is twofold. First, it will define the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 as it relates to the FRRMA to ensure that future actions taken by the Forest Service and Forest users meet the intent of this Act.

Secondly, this plan will address travel management within the FRRMA by making recommendations of routes to be open to motorized travel within the FRRMA, and will define the mode of motorized travel authorized on these designated routes (travel management).

IV. DEFINING CONGRESSIONAL INTENT RELATING TO THE FRRMA

A. Grazing

The Colorado Wilderness Act as it relates to the FRRMA states:

(e) Livestock Grazing--The designation of the recreation management area shall not be construed to prohibit, or change the administration of, the grazing of livestock within the recreation management area.

Current Situation: There are three allotments located with the boundary of the FRRMA. They are Willow Creek, Gold Creek and Taylor Park. Each is grazed by cattle. The Willow Creek Allotment does have a current Allotment Management Plan (AMP). The Gold Creek Allotment is scheduled to have an updated AMP completed soon. The Taylor Park Allotment does not have a current AMP.

Future Management: The language of the Colorado Wilderness Act does not effect the current grazing management within the RMA.

B. Lands and Minerals

The Colorado Wilderness Act as it relates to the FRRMA states:

(c) Withdrawal-- Subject to valid existing rights, all lands within the recreation management area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, including all amendment thereto.

Current Situation: Mining activity was prevalent in the FRRMA in Willow Creek and Union Park/Fairview. Some mining exploration took place in these areas in the mid 1980's. Several patented mining claims are located within the FRRMA boundary and shown as white on the map included in this document. (The large parcel of private land shown on the map in Fossil Ridge Wilderness is incorrectly located. It is correclty located within the FRRMA on Cross Mountain). No land exchanges are pending or planned. There is no record of valid existing rights being held in an unpatented mining claim. There is one Colorado State Trust Parcel (School Section) located within the FRRMA boundary. It is located on the Willow Creek Road and is leased by a local rancher for grazing purposes.

Future Management: No disposal of public land will occur within the FRRMA, although acquisition of private land is permitted. National Forest lands within the FRRMA cannot become patented lands (subject to valid existing rights). Existing rights are rights that existed as of August 23, 1993. Nothing in the Colorado Wilderness Act applies to private land or State lands.

C. Timber Harvesting

The Colorado Wilderness Act as it relates to the FRRMA states:

TIMBER HARVESTING --No timber harvesting shall be allowed within the recreation management area except to the extent that would be permitted in wilderness under section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act for necessary control of fire, insects, and diseases, and for public safety.

(Section 4(d)(1) of the 1964 Wilderness Act reads: (d) The following provisions are hereby made: (1) Within wilderness areas designated by this Act the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restrictions as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions as the Secretary deems desirable.

Current Situation: No timber harvests are scheduled within the FRRMA boundary. The Willow Creek area and other portions of the FRRMA have been popular areas for firewood and Christmas tree cutting.

Future Management: Timber harvesting within the FRRMA will not occur. Firewood and Christmas Tree cutting for home use is prohibited. This will be addressed in all information provided to firewood and Christmas Tree cutters at the time of purchasing a permit. On site firewood gathering for campfires is permitted.

D. Campgrounds and Trails

The Colorado Wilderness Act as it relates to the FRRMA states:

(f) DEVELOPMENT-- No developed campgrounds shall be constructed within the recreation management area. After the date of enactment of this Act (August 23, 1993) no new roads or trails may be constructed within the recreation management area.

Current Situation: There are no campgrounds located within the FRRMA. Three campgrounds are located adjacent to the FRRMA. These are One Mile, Gold Creek and Comanche. There are 37.4 miles of system trails and additional miles of non system trails located within the FRRMA. No new trail construction is planned.

Future Management: No campgrounds will be built within the FRRMA. No new trail construction will occur. Trail re-routes may still be constructed for the purpose of resource protection and public safety.

E. OTHER RESOURCES

The Colorado Wilderness Act pertaining to the FRRMA does not offer any guidelines for management of fish, wildlife, prescribed or wildfire, or water resources. Future actions and management of these resources should be guided by these two provisions in the Colorado Wilderness Act:

The Act reads:

(a) Establishment-- (1) In order to conserve, protect, and enhance the scenic, wildlife, recreational, and other natural resource values of the Fossil Ridge area, there is hereby established the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area.
(b) Administration-- The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the recreation management area in accordance with this section and the laws and regulations generally applicable to the National Forest System.

V. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

The Colorado Wilderness Act as it relates to the FRRMA states:

(g) Off Road Recreation-- Motorized travel shall be permitted within the recreation management area only on those established trails and routes existing as of July 1,

1991, on which such travel was permitted as of such date, except that other trails and routes may be used where necessary for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency. No later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall identify such routes and trails and shall prepare and make available to the public a map showing such routes and trails. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as precluding the Secretary from closing any trail or route from use for purposes of resource protection or public safety.

A. Background

When the Colorado Wilderness Act was passed in 1993 the entire Fossil Ridge Area (both the wilderness and the FRRMA) was shown as open travel on the Gunnison Basin Forest Service Map. The Gunnison Basin Forest Service map is color coded for travel management with green being open travel. The entire acreage designated as the FRRMA was green. On the travel map green is defined as:

> Areas open yearlong to motorized vehicles on and off roads and trails. Driving on or off existing roads and trails in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetative resources is prohibited.

Even though the Gunnison Basin Map showed the WSA as green, on June 13, 1991 the Forest Supervisor, using the environmental analysis process, made a decision on travel routes within the Fossil Ridge WSA. The alternative selected stated that "Mechanized use would be permitted only on designated routes. The area (the WSA) would be closed to the use of mechanized travel off system roads and trails."

Much of the WSA became wilderness in 1993 therefore, by law, eliminating all motorized and mechanized travel within the wilderness. However, certain parts of the WSA fell outside of the wilderness designation and were designated the FRRMA. These areas include over 5,000 acres between the Willow Creek and Gold Creek Roads, and most of the current FRRMA located due west of the Cumberland Pass Road to the wilderness boundary including Shaw Ridge. Therefore where the boundary of the WSA overlaps with the current FRRMA boundary, motorized travel was only permitted on designated routes. Only these routes will be considered motorized routes for those respective areas for the purpose of determining which routes will be designated routes in the FRRMA.

B. Travel Decisions and Route Designation

In order to determine what was a route and where motorized travel was permitted as of July 1, 1991 within the FRRMA, Forest Service employees and members of the compromise committee made a base map of the FRRMA showing known existing routes within the FRRMA. This map is available at the district office.

This initial Base Map consisted of system roads and trails. To ensure that all routes would be considered, it was agreed that an on-the-ground survey of routes would be completed.

The purpose of this field work was to ensure that all system and non-system routes would be located on a map for consideration, and secondly to ensure that system routes identified did exist on the ground.

Going beyond designating routes, the Forest Service will also make a recommendation and decision as to what type of motorized travel will be permitted on the routes: full-size, ATV, motorcycle, and snowmobiles. Mountain bike use will also be addressed.

Additional routes, roads and trails were located on the ground that were not shown on the Forest Service transportation system and consequently not originally delineated on the base map.

In summary, the field survey found:

1. The Three Mile Trail as shown on the original Base Map does not exist in its entirety on the ground.
2. A number of roads were located in the Five-Mile and One Mile area that were not on the Forest Road Inventory.
3. The Five Mile Trail as shown on the original Base Map does not exist in it entirety on the ground south of the Five Mile Road.
4. A number of non system trails were located west of the One Mile road. These trails are used by Harmel's Resort for guided horseback rides.
5. Two non system trails were located east of the One Mile Road (Van Tuyl and Seely Trails) that extend into the wilderness boundary.
6. The Beaver to McIntyre jeep road #812.2F has resource damage from its current use.
7. Road 812.2 is rarely used and extends into the Fossil Ridge Wilderness.
8. Several short roads were located in the Alder Creek and SB area that were not on the Forest Road Inventory.
9. A non system trail was located in the Bear Gulch area from Willow Creek Road to the Gold Creek Road.
10. The Comanche Gulch Road #771.1C extends further than shown on the original Base Map.. This road is located within the WSA travel management decision.
11. Some distances of system routes were not accurately recorded on the Forest Service Transportation System (both road and trail).
12. ATVs are using single track trails.

The following charts list all of the roads and trails that were identified within the FRRMA. All of the roads located have a road number and name associated with them. Those trails that were located during the field inventory that were not on the Forest Trail System are given a non system trail number (NST#).

On the following tables, Column 4 "Length of Proposed Designated Route" and Column 6 "Proposed Type of Travel" state the proposed action for travel management within the FRRMA.

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA ROAD INVENTORY

ROAD NO.	ROAD NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	TYPE OF TRAVEL IN 1991	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
586	One Mile	3.0	3.0	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
586.1A	Five Mile	3.8	3.8	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
586.A1	Five Mile Spur 1	.4	.4	full size	full size	To camp spot and dead ends, 4-wheel drive road
586.A2	Five Mile Spur 2	1.8	1.8	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
586.A3	Five Mile Spur 3	.3	.3	full size	full size	To camp spot and dead ends, 4-wheel drive road
586.A4	Fire View	.2	.2	full size	close	Road does not go to any destination
586.1D	Taylor View	.8	.8	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
586.1E	Cougar Canyon	.3	.3	full size	full size	Turns to trail, used heavily by Harmel's, goes to camp spot
586.1F	One Mile Spur	.4	.4	closed	closed	Closed by signing in past 1995 decision
586.1B	Bear	.5	.5	closed	closed	Closed by signing in past 1995 decision
586.1C	Cliff Creek	1.5	1.7	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
586.3A	East Beaver	3.0	1.0	full size	full size	
586.1G	One Mile Spur	.2	.2	full size	close	Appears to be used by firewood cutters. Firewood cutting is now prohibited.
586.3F	Creek Overlook	.4	.4	full size/ATV	close	Faint road, goes to overlook of Beaver Creek
586.3E	High Beaver (Nelson)	.8	.8	full size	full size	Access to wilderness, 4-wheel drive road
586.3	Beaver Creek	5.3	5.3	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
812.2F	Upper Beaver	1.3	0	full size	motorcycle	Much resource damage, will be placed on trail inventory

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA ROAD INVENTORY (continued)

ROAD NO.	ROAD NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	TYPE OF TRAVEL IN 1991	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
812.F1	Wilderness Spur	2.0	0	ATV, possible full size	close	Hardly exists, encroaches wilderness boundary
812.2E	McIntyre Spur	.3	.3	full size	full size	Road goes to Miller Cabin, 4-wheel drive road
812.2 Lower	Dry Gulch	.8	.8	full size	full size	Road will end at "bog" crossing
583.2	Parlin Flats	2.5	2.5	full size	full size	Main 4-wheel drive road
583.A2	SB Spur 1	.2	0	full size	close	Road punched in, goes to no destination
583.A1	Cabin Spur	.6	.6	full size	close	faint road, appears not to go to any destination
583.2A	SB	2.0	2.0	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
882.B1	210 Spur	.6	.6	full size	full size	Goes to a fence, well travelled dirt road
210.2	Lower Alder	1.5	1.0	full size	full size	.5 miles will be placed on trail inventory at Alder Creek
210.2A	Big Gulch	1.0	1.0	full size	full size	Goes to Forest Boundary
882.1B	Flick Ridge	3.5	3.5	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
678.1A	Left Fork Flick	2.2	0	closed	closed	Closed by signing in past 1995 decision
678.1B	Flick Cutoff	.6	.6	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
678	Flick Gulch	1.5	1.5	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
678.B2	Means Spur	1.3	.6	full size	full size	Closed for .7 miles because of private land closure
882.1	Willow Creek	1.8	1.8	full size	full size	2-wheel drive road
882.1A	Willow Mine Spur	.5	.6	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA ROAD INVENTORY (continued)

ROAD NO.	ROAD NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	TYPE OF TRAVEL IN 1991	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
882.2	Willow Creek	1.0	1.0	full size	full size	Segment through school section, 2-wheel drive road
882.3	Willow Creek	2.6	2.6	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road. Ends at "Jeep Camp"
882.A1	Willow Mine Spur A1	.2	.2	full size	full size	Follows contour to mine tailings, 4-wheel drive road
882.1C	Willow Creek Mine	2.3	2.3	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
882.C1	Illinois Overlook	.2	.2	full size	full size	Goes to overlook of Ohio City
882.1D	East Willow	1.7	1.2	full size	full size	Will close to full size at mile 1.2, standard lessens to more of trail standard
882.D1	East Willow Spur D1	.2	0	full size	close	Road was pushed in to access hill. Hardly used
882.3A	Bear Gulch	.9	.9	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road, goes to mine
771.1C	Comanche Gulch	2.6	2.6	full size	full size	1.9 miles to mine, resource damage above mine. Included in 1991 travel manangement decision
771.2B	Sandy Hook	.5	.5	full size	full size	
770	Fairview Peak	1.0	1.0	full size	full size	No motorized to top of Fairview, 1.0 mile of road in RMA
766.1D	Halls Gulch Spur	.3	.3	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
766.1I	Halls Gulch Spur	.2	.2	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
765.9A	West Willow	.6	.6	full size	full size	Access to mining claim
765.8A	Blistered Horn	1.7	1.7	full size	full size	Access to mining claim

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA ROAD INVENTORY (continued)

ROAD NO.	ROAD NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	TYPE OF TRAVEL IN 1991	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
766.1D	Halls Gulch Spur	.3	.3	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
766.1I	Halls Gulch Spur	.2	.2	full size	full size	4-wheel drive road
765.9A	West Willow	.6	.6	full size	full size	Access to mining claim
765.8A	Blistered Horn	1.7	1.7	full size	full size	Access to mining claim
752.3	Union Park	.4	.4	full size	full size	
752.3C	Cameron Mnt	.2	.2	full size	full size	
752.3A	Cross Mnt	.4	.4	full size	full size	access to mining claim
TOTAL		**63.9**	**54.6**			

LEGEND

FULL SIZE - Open to cars, ATV's, motorcycle, mountain bike, foot and horse, snowmobile
ATV - Open to ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike, foot and horse
MOTORCYCLE - Open to motorcycle, mountain bike, foot and horse
MOUNTAIN BIKE - Open to mountain bike, foot and horse
FOOT AND HORSE - Open to foot and horse

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA TRAIL INVENTORY

TRAIL NO.	TRAIL NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	CURRENT TYPE OF TRAVEL	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
433	Five Mile	5.3 Not able to locate all of trail south of 5 Mile Road	2.2	foot and horse ATV-motorcycle cattle	.3 ATV (south) 1.9 horse (north)	No trail was located south of Five Mile Creek North of road is cattle trail, No legal access from Taylor Canyon through private
434	Three Mile	5.3 Not able to locate all of trail	1.7	Segmented use of ATV, motorcycle, foot, horse, cattle	Motorcycle to make loop from 5 Mile Road to Cliff Creek Road	Trail is difficult to locate past Cliff Creek
NST#1	Five Mile Cutoff	.4	.4	Horse, motorcycle mtn bike	Mtn Bike	Appears trail was made by horse use to shortcut the road. Single track
NST#2	Cougar Canyon	.9	.9	Horse, motorcycle	Horse	Used by Harmels for guided horse trips
NST#3	Van Tuyl	uncertain	-0-	Horse, some mtn. bike, some motor-cycle	horse	Do not maintain, no motorized, no mountain bikes. Encroaches into wilderness. Additional access not needed. Not currently on system. Very steep.
NST#4	Seely	uncertain	-0-	Horse, some mtn bike, some motor-cycle	horse	Do not maintain, no motorized, no mountain bikes. Encroaches into wilderness. Additional access not needed. Very steep in places. Not currently on system.
NST#5	Beaver Creek	2.4	2.4	Mostly foot, some horse and motorcycle	Horse	Trail does not appear to be used by motorcycles. Single track next to creek.
NST#6	Beaver/ McIntyre	Jeep road	2.2	Mostly ATV, motorcycle, horse and foot, some jeep	Motorcycle	Severe resource damage at 3 water crossings. Tread is single track in some places.
NST#7	Fossil Cut off	.2	.2	Motorcycle/some ATV	Motorcycle	Provides shortcut from Beaver/McIntyre to Fossil Ridge Trail. Accesses single track trail
478	Fossil Ridge	15.1	15.1	Motorcycle/some ATV on West end	Motorcycle	Most of trail is single track. ATV use will widen it. Decision made in 1995 to close to ATV travel.

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA TRAIL INVENTORY (continued)

TRAIL NO.	TRAIL NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	CURRENT TYPE OF TRAVEL	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
578	McIntyre Gulch	1.5	1.5	Motorcycle/maybe ATV	Motorcycle	Most of trail is single track. ATV use will widen it.
NST#8	Fossil Bypass	1.0	1.0	Motorcycle	Motorcycle	Is currently a single track trail
577	Alder Creek	3.3	3.3	ATV on Segments Motorcycle on segments. Possible full size on segments	577.1-1.0 ATV 577.2-1.8 motorcycle 577.3-.5 ATV	ATV to 2nd fence on west end. ATV on east for .5 miles to trail junction because trail is wide. Motorcycle on 1.8 miles of trail because trail is single track
479	Willow Creek	1.0	1.0	Motorcycle/some ATV	Motorcycle	Trail is single track, need to re-route due to erosion and steepness
478.1A	Boulder Lake	.3	.3	Motorcycle	Motorcycle	Single track
NST#9	Bear Gulch	3.9	3.9	Motorcycle, Mtn bike, foot, horse	Mountain Bike	Hidden trail, not currently on USFS inventory. Steep section from Gold Creek.
NST#10	East Willow	.6	.6	ATV, possibly full size	Mountain Bike	Road goes to cabin. Single track past cabin.
427	Gold Creek	5.1	5.1	Motorcycle	Motorcycle	Within old WSA, single track. 1991 travel mgmt decision
426	Fairview	2.3	2.3	Motorcycle	Motorcycle	Within old WSA, single track. 1991 travel mgmt decision
549	Cameron Gulch	2.4	2.4	Motorcycle	Motorcycle	Within old WSA, single track. 1991 travel mgmt decision
430	Summerville	.2	.2	foot and horse, some motorcycle	Horse	Only .2 mile in FRRMA, remaining trail is in wilderness
NST#11	Timber Trail	.4	.4	Horse	Horse	Outfitter trail to camp, remaining trail is in Wilderness
NST#12	Beaver Cow Trail	1.0	-0-	Not sure possible motorcycle	Closed	In riparian, double route (.5 length) hardly exists

FOSSIL RIDGE RMA TRAIL INVENTORY (continued)

TRAIL NO.	TRAIL NAME	EXISTING IN 1991	LENGTH OF PROPOSED DESIGNATED ROUTE	CURRENT TYPE OF TRAVEL	PROPOSED TYPE OF TRAVEL	RATIONALE/ COMMENT
NST#13	McIntyre Spur	.9 maybe longer	-0-	Cow trail Some ATV use	Closed	Do not maintain for recreation. Appears to be a cattle trail. Provides unneeded access to Fossil Ridge Trail
NST#14	Alder Spur	.7 maybe longer	-0-	Cow trail Some ATV use	Closed	Do not maintain for recreation. Not currently on the system. Appears to be mainly a cattle trail.
NST#15	Harmels Point	.9	.9	Horse	Horse	Used by Harmels for guided horse rides
NST#16	Fairview Lake Trail	1.5	1.5	Horse	Mountain Bike	Within old WSA. 1991 travel mgmt decision.
NST#17	Fairview Peak Trail	.5	.5	foot, some motorcycle	foot	Very steep single track to top of Fairview Peak
TOTAL		**57.1**	**50.0**			

LEGEND
ATV - Open to ATV, motorcycle, mountain bike, foot and horse
MOTORCYCLE - Open to motorcycle, mountain bike, foot and horse
MOUNTAIN BIKE - Open to mountain bike, foot and horse
FOOT AND HORSE - Open to foot and horse

VI. Public Scoping

The Fossil Ridge area has had much public comment in its history, especially since being designated a WSA. Public comment was received when the Forest Service was doing environmental analysis to make a decision on travel management in the WSA.

The compromise committee spent many hours discussing issues within the WSA and forming alternatives to present to Congress for wilderness and a compromise wilderness designation.

Public comment was received from various users to help make decisions on which routes to designate within the FRRMA as well as what modes of travel to allow on these routes. Input on the base map, whether to add or delete routes, and comment, came from Brad Phelps - rancher, John Nelson (and employees)- Outfitter, Rudy Rudibaugh - Outfitter, Don Carroll - long time hunter/recreationalist, Blue Mesa Four-Wheelers, employees of Harmels Resort, Morrill Griffith (and employees) - Sun Sports, and Gary Sprung - High Country Citizens Alliance. Many comments and concerns were heard from Forest users during the summer and fall months. All comment was verbal, however, many of the comments have been recorded and summarized.

In June 1995, a scoping notice was sent to the media and members of the compromise committee to ask for input on five travel management decisions within the FRRMA. No written or verbal comment was received during scoping. Comment was being requested on the proposal to close three roads within the FRRMA. These roads were: 5861B (.5 miles), Unnamed road south of 586 1B (.2 miles), and 678.1A Left Fork Flick (2.2 miles). In September 1995, these roads were signed closed with Carsonite posts.

Also within the scoping notice were two trail use proposals, with the first concerning ATV use on the Fossil Ridge Trail #478. The proposal was to limit motorized use to motorcycle traffic only. The second proposal was to identify the Three Mile Trail as a trail from the Five Mile Road to the Cliff Creek Road. The trail would not be recongized as a route south of the Cliff Creek Road. In September 1995, the Fossil Ridge Trail was signed open to motorcycles, closed to ATVs. The Three-Mile Trail was signed open to motorcycle, closed to ATV, but not signed closed past the Cliff Creek Road.

After these routes were signed, the Forest Service received one complaint from an ATV user who wanted to use the Fossil Ridge Trail. No other comments were received on any of the closures after signing was installed.

The Travel Management section of this Plan will be given to the public for review and comment as required in CFR 295.3. Scoping will take place for 60 days. An EA will be prepared considering public comment and concern to help form alternatives.

VII. OTHER RECREATION RESOURCES

A. Special Recreation Events

The Colorado Wilderness Act did not address outfitter use and special recreation events within the FRRMA. However the compromise committee formed two alternernatives prior to writing the letter to Congress on April 4, 1991. Both of these alternatives expressed the fear that the FRRMA would become a "motorcycle Mecca" if special restrictions were not implemented. Both alternatives called for a prohibition on motorcycle enduros or large organized rides. Currently the Taylor River and Cebolla Districts receive several recreation special event applications for motorcycle events across the district including organized rides, enduros and trials.

Future Management: When the Taylor River and Cebolla Ranger Districts receive special recreation event applications for use within the FRRMA, the district will consider the application. The public will be asked for their comment on the proposal prior to the Forest Service making a decision on the application.

B. Outfitter and Guide

The Colorado Wilderness Act did not address outfitter and guide use within the FRRMA. Currently three outfitter and guides use the area including John Nelson, Harmel's Resort and Rudy Rudibaugh. Several other outfitters use the Fossil Ridge Wilderness Area and use the Fossil Ridge Trail to access the wilderness.

Future Management: Outfitter and guide use is not affected by the Colorado Wilderness Act. All outfitters will be required to use system trails (which will be identified in the final travel management map) whether they are providing a motorized or non motorized experience. This will help eliminate new trails being created within the FRRMA. Future service days that may be allocated for commercial use within the FRRMA will be determined by capacity analysis.

C. Trail and Road Maintenance

The compromise committee letter dated April 4,1991, to Congress included this request: "Neither trails nor roads should be upgraded in any way. The areas should remain primitive and undeveloped." The Colorado Wilderness Act did not include this language with the exception of stating , " No new roads or trails may be constructed within the recreation management area. The Secretary may close a route for resource protection or public safety."

Future Management: Trail maintenance within the FRRMA will continue. The Forest Service will implement an "Adopt- A -Trail" type of program to assist with trail maintenance. The character of the trails will not change due to trail maintenance standards, however, certain re-routes may be accomplished for resource protection and

safety. Trail signing will be improved. Those non-system trails added to the system will receive trail maintenance.

Currently most of the roads within the FRRMA are four wheel drive roads with the exception of the Willow Creek Road. The Willow Creek Road is under a Schedule A Agreement (maintenance agreement) with Gunnison County.

Future Management: Roads will be maintained in a manner so as not to change their character. Those roads that are four wheel drive roads will continue to be maintained as such. All roads will be signed at junctions with the road system number.

VIII. FUTURE NEEDS

A. Travel Management Signing

Once the routes are designated, with modes of travel defined, the routes will be signed. Presently many of the routes are currently signed using the white arrow system. Those system routes having issues or non-system routes in question have not been signed, unless there was an issue of resource damage.

Monitoring the signing should be done yearly.

B. Map

Once the plan is approved, a map will be prepared showing all of the routes. This map will be available at the district office, and will be posted on the bulletin boards at major entrances to the FRRMA and wilderness.

C. Forest Order

The Supervisor's Order 01-92 that implemented travel management within the WSA and prohibited certain activities, will be canceled. It was no longer pertinent once the WSA was designated as wilderness and the FRRMA. The 1992 order within the WSA:

1. Established designated routes.
2. Prohibited shortcutting a switchback on a trail.
3. Prohibited off trail use by vehicles.
4. Prohibited to hitch, tether or hobble a horse within 200 feet of any lake.
5. Prohibited camping within 100 feet of any lake.
6. Prohibited use of motorized vehicles on certain portions of the South Lottis Trail.

In place of the this order, a new Forest Order will be established. It will place these restrictions within the FRRMA:

1. Possessing or using a motorized vehicle off forest development roads and trails.
2. Establish certain travel restrictions on designated routes as shown on attached map.
3. Prohibit the removal of timber, trees or other forest products.
4. Prohibit hitching, tethering or hobbling stock with 200 feet of any lake.
5. Prohibit camping within 200 feet of any lake.

Following is the proposed Forest Order. Removing of timber products within the FRRMA is enforceable immediately because it was within an Act of Congress. The other measures cannot be enforced until a Forest Order is signed.

D. Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

The Forest Land and Resource Managment Plan, when revised, will include these lands as currently designated (33,060 acres as Fossil Ridge Wilderness and 43,900 acres as the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area). Currently most of these lands are categorized as part of the Roadless Area #204 with 47,400 acres designated the Fossil Ridge Wilderness Study Area. Land prescriptions and recreation opportunity classes may be amended as currently exist.

FOSSIL RIDGE COMPROMISE

April 4, 1991

The Honorable Timothy E. Wirth
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wirth:

After years of disputing the proper management of the Fossil Ridge area, a number of interested and affected groups met on April 1 and April 4, 1991 and worked out a compromise. We hope you will endorse this proposal.

We propose that a large area surrounding Fossil Ridge be designated by Congress as a National Conservation Area, with a portion of the area designated as Wilderness. The NCA should include Beaver Creek Road south of One Mile Campground, McIntyre Gulch, the bottom of Willow Creek, all of Fairview Peak, and the south side of Union Park. The Wilderness core should include all of the Crystal Creek Basin, upper East Beaver Creek Basin, South Lottis Creek Basin, and the basins including Lamphier, Mill and Boulder Lakes. The southern Wilderness boundary should be drawn one hundred feet north of the Fossil Ridge Trail, so that the trail will not be in the Wilderness. The signatories agree this wilderness boundary should not be expanded, ever.

We want the entire NCA to be governed by these provisions: A prohibition within the area of timber harvesting, road building, mining and mineral location, and the building of structures. Neither trails nor roads should be upgraded in any way. The area should remain primitive and undeveloped. Grazing should be allowed, with no changes allowed to result from the designation. Trail maintenance and wildlife habitat management could be allowed, but only insofar as these require no timber harvesting nor road building.

Travel management was a center of the controversy surrounding Fossil Ridge. We want careful travel management of the area. Motorized vehicles should stay on designated routes. Other restrictions may or may not be necessary, possibly including a permit system. Travel management regulations would be indicated, but not specified, in the legislation. A plan would be created by the Forest Service, with public involvement, after the Congressional designation.

Travel management requires money for enforcement and education. We hope Congress can provide funds so that the existing USFS staff in Gunnison is not burdened with extra work.

The Wilderness should be governed under the usual management provisions that apply to other sections of National Wilderness Preservation System.

We have attached a boundary map. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Yours truly,

Gary Sprung, President
High Country Citizen's Alliance

John Nelson
Outfitter-Permittee
Owner, The Gunnison Country Guide Service

Roy Duncan, President
Blue Mesa Four Wheelers
Owner, Duncan 4X4

Ramon Reed
Gunnison Democratic Party

Duane Gray, Tim Hawkins, Ken Bergen
High Country Motorcycle Trail Riders Association

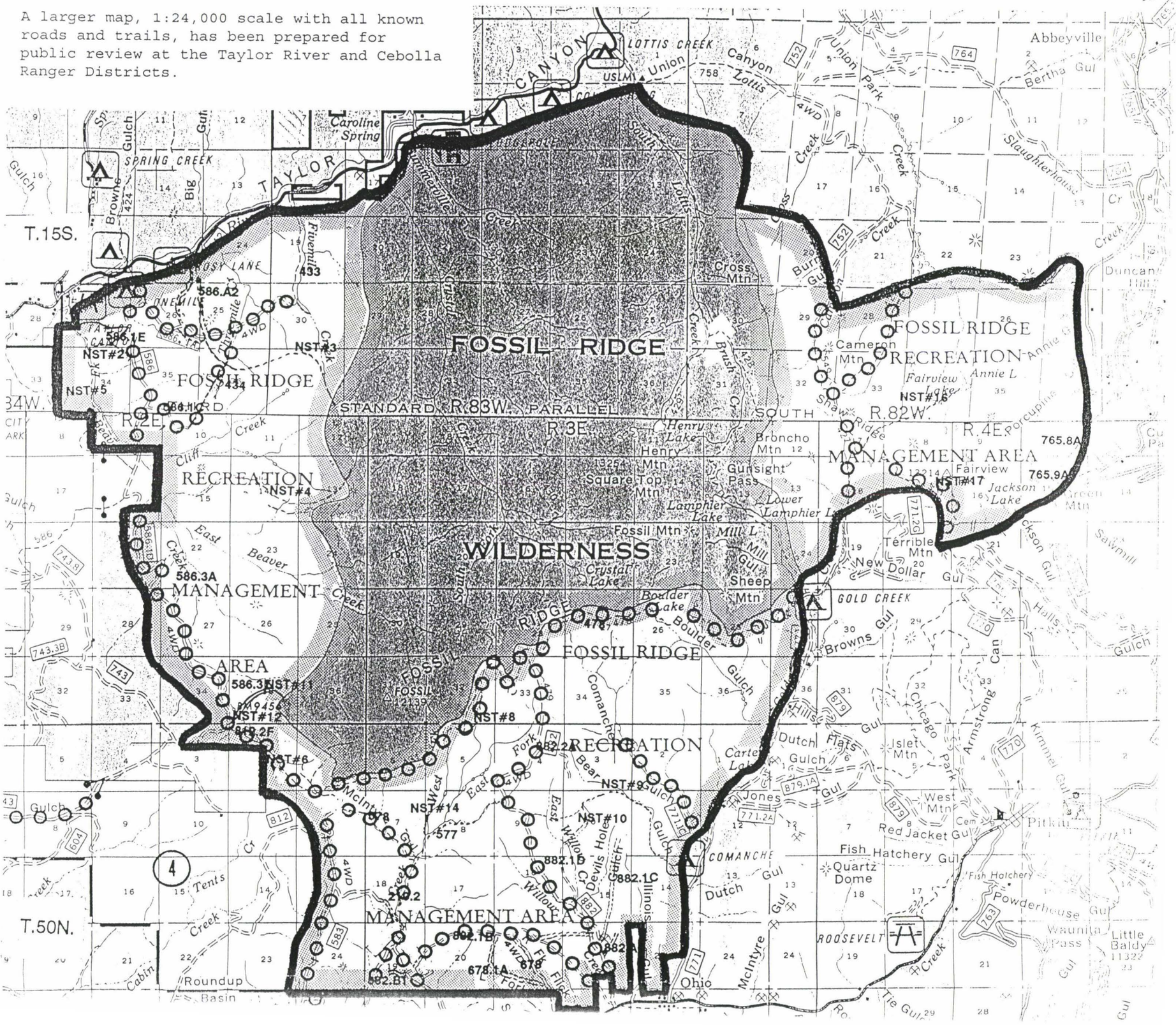
Morrill Griffith, President
Sun Sports Unlimited, Inc.

cc: Senator Brown
Congressman Campbell
Gunnison Board of County Commissioners

TRAVEL MANAGEMENT MAP
EXHIBIT B

Fossil Ridge Wilderness
Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (FRRMA)
Gunnison National Forest

A larger map, 1:24,000 scale with all known roads and trails, has been prepared for public review at the Taylor River and Cebolla Ranger Districts.



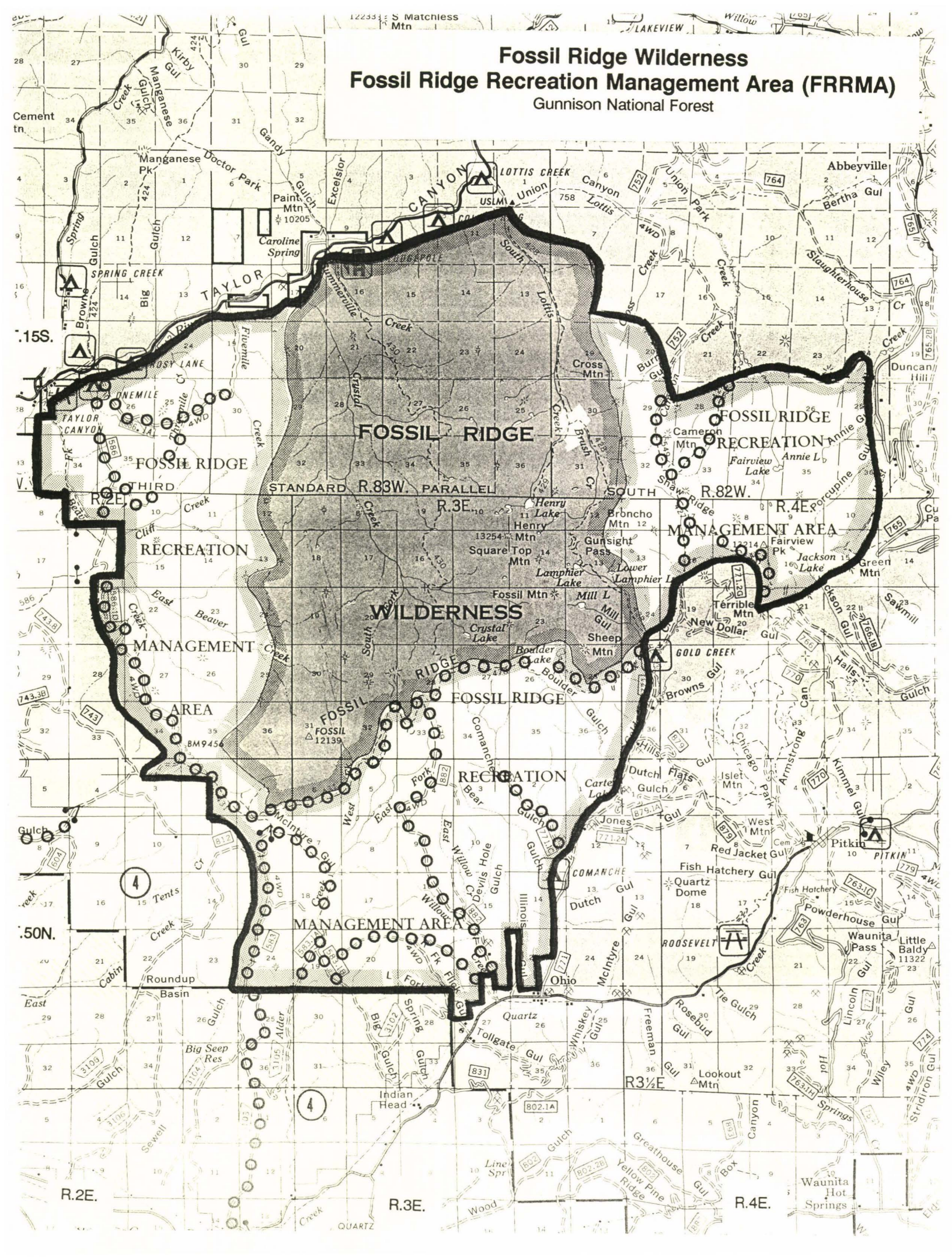
FOSSIL RIDGE WILDERNESS AND FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA

In 1993 Congress designated 33,060 acres in Fossil Ridge as Wilderness, and in addition created 43,900 acres as Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (FRRMA).

FOSSIL RIDGE WILDERNESS (33,060 ACRES)	FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (43,900 ACRES)
Fossil Ridge Wilderness is managed in accordance to all requirements in the Wilderness Act of 1964 which includes: - No motorized or mechanized use - No mountain bikes - Foot and horse travel only - No firewood cutting for off site use - Grazing is permitted	**- Motorized Travel will be Permitted on Designated Roads and Trails** - No firewood cutting for off site use - Grazing is permitted - No new roads and trails will be constructed. - Mountain bikes permitted - Foot and horse travel permitted - No removal of Christmas trees

Please respect the management guidelines in Fossil Ridge Wilderness and FRRMA. Remember, no motorized travel in Fossil Ridge Wilderness. In the FRRMA motorized travel is restricted to designated routes.

GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST
Taylor River/Cebolla Ranger Districts
216 North Colorado
Gunnison CO 81230
(970)641-0471


Fossil Ridge Wilderness
Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area (FRRMA)
Gunnison National Forest
FOSSIL RIDGE WILDERNESS
FOSSIL RIDGE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA
STANDARD PARALLEL SOUTH
R.83W.
R.82W.
R.2E.
R.3E.
R.4E.
R3½E
T.15S.
T.50N.
Cement tn
Manganese Pk
Paint Mtn 10205
Caroline Spring
SPRING CREEK
TAYLOR CANYON
LOTTIS CREEK
CANYON
Abbeyville
Cross Mtn
Cameron Mtn
Fairview Lake
Annie L
Henry Lake
Henry Mtn 13254
Broncho Mtn
Square Top Mtn
Gunsight Pass
Lower Lamphier L
Lamphier Lake
Fairview Pk
Jackson Lake
Green Mtn
Terrible Mtn
New Dollar
Fossil Mtn
Mill L
Crystal Lake
Sheep Mtn
Boulder Lake
Boulder
GOLD CREEK
Browns Gul
Halls Gulch
FOSSIL RIDGE
FOSSIL 12139
BM9456
Comanche Fork
Comanche Gulch
COMANCHE
Dutch Flats
Islet Mtn
West Mtn
Jones
Red Jacket Gul
Pitkin
PITKIN
Fish Hatchery Gul
Quartz Dome
Powderhouse Gul
Waunita Pass
Little Baldy 11322
ROOSEVELT
Ohio
Quartz
Tollgate Gul
Whiskey Gul
Freeman Gul
Rosebud Gul
Tie Gulch
Lookout Mtn
Indian Head
Big Seep Res
Roundup Basin
Cabin
Tents
Devils Hole Gulch
Illinois
McIntyre
Armstrong Park
Chicago
Kimmel Gul
Sawmill
Lincoln
Wiley
Hot Springs
Waunita Hot Springs
Yellow Pine Ridge
Greathouse
Box
Wood
Sewell
Alder
Spring
Big
Gulch
Creek
Gul
Canyon
Park
Ridge
Pass
Lake
Mtn
Pk
Cr
Gulch
Creek
Gul
Canyon
Park
Ridge
Pass
Lake
Mtn
Pk
Cr

ORDER NO. ??-96
Special Closure

GRAND MESA, UNCOMPAHGRE, AND GUNNISON NATIONAL FORESTS
Region 2

This order establishes certain travel restrictions pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, (CFR) Part 261.50(A) and (B). The restructions apply yearlong to roads and trails as shown on a mpa entitled "Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area", dated ??/??/97; and on the current Travel Availbility Guide, and as posted in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51.

Pursuant to 36 FR. 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited within all of the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area as described in this order.

1. Possessing or using a motorized vehicle off forest development roads and trails. 36 CFR 261.56

2. Removing any timber, tree or other forest product. (not sure about this one)

3. Hitching, tethering or hobbling a horse or other saddle or stock animal within 200 feet of any lake. 36 CFR 261.58(aa)

4. Camping within 200 feet of any lake. 36 CFR 261.58(e)

Pursuant to 36 CFR.50(e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.

2. Any federal, state, or local officer, or member of an organized fire-fighting force in the performance of official duty.

Other persons needing to access a closed or restricted road, trail or a portion of the Gunnison National Forest should contact a Forest Servcie land manager for written permission.

The purpose of these prohibitions is to enforce Congressional intent in the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, and to help prevent further degradation of lakeshores.

Done at Delta, Colorado this _____ day of _____, 1996.

Robert L. Storch
Forest Supervisor
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests

Violation of these prohibitions punishable by a fine of not more than $5000.00 or imprisonment for not more than 6 months or both. Title 16 USC 551.1

Glossary

ATV -- All terrain vehicle, generally a four wheeled motorized vehicle measuring 44 inches or less (some are slightly wider) at the wheel base. In most cases in the State of Colorado these vehicles must be registered, although not licensed.

Colorado Wilderness Act -- H.R. 631, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993, P.L. 103-77. It designated the Fossil Ridge Wilderness Area and the Fossil Ridge Recreation Management Area.

Green Area -- Areas on the Gunnison Basin National Forest map open yearlong to motorized vehicles on and of roads and trails. Driving on or off existing roads and trails in a manner which damages or unreasonably disturbs the land, wildlife, or vegetative resources is prohibited.

Trail Motorcycles -- Often referred to as dirt bikes. A two wheeled motorized vehicle. In the state of Colorado these vehicles do not have to be licensed unless they are "street legal." However, dirt bikes and unlicensed motorcycles must be registered by the State.

Wilderness Act -- Refers to the Wilderness Act of 1964 signed by President Lyndon Johnson on September 3, 1964. This Act established the first wilderness areas in this nation and guides the Forest Service and other federal agencies in wilderness management and philosophy.